# BELLOWS FALLS NEWS.

There is much interest and anxiety as to the whereabouts of Owen Doyle, a well-known citizen of North Walpole, who has been missing since last week Friday evening. Mr. Doyle has for eight years been employed as a track man in the yard of the Rutland road here under Roadmaster James Brown. He is a man of about 50 years, has a wife and one daughter. The latter works for M. F. Dayls on South atter works for M. F. Dayis on South atreet. Mr. Doyle and his wife live alone most of the time. Last Friday he was at work as usual and in the evening after his supper he was seen on the streets of the village across the river, but he did not go home and has not been seen since. A thorough search has been carried on for him without result, and no tenable theory is advanced. No reason is known for his

A. C. Moore is seriously ill with pneumonia at his home on South Terrace.

N. H. Cook, a former harness maker here, is now engaged in the same trade in George Wales and Mrs. Lane have been

in Boston this week buying goods for Mr. Wales's new-store Mrs. John Kennedy of North Walpole

fell in her dooryard one day last week and broke one of her arms. The young people of the Methodist church

Saxtons River road tonight. The petit jurors for this town drawn last Saturday for the coming term of court were J. J. Fenton, C. E. Weeden, and

A. H. Chandler was absent from his place in the national bank a few days last week, taking a short vacation trip to Boston and other points.

Wm. A. Hall and family leave today for an extended trip through the South, and later will remain in New York city through a large part of the spring.

and Wednesday night to institute a new lodge of Odd Fellows there. He was accompanied by R. C. Thomas.

There were no schools in town on Wednesday, Washington's birthday. Exercises in commemoration of the day were held in school buildings No. 2, 3 and 4 Tuesday af-

C. W. Osgood gave a stereopticon lecture upon the "Sunny South," or "The Work of the American Missionary Association Seen through a Stereopticon," at the Congregational church Thursday evening.

Prof. Laycock of Dartmouth college, who is to lecture here tonight in the popular lecture course, lectured last evening in Walpole. He is the professor of oratory and rhetoric of the college, and a rare treat is expected.

A Washington party was given by the Young People's Christian union of the Universalist church in the parlors last evening. Music, tableaux and a cane drill furnished entertainment, and a pleasant evening was the result.

Wm. P. Stuart made his will the day be-fore his recent death and appointed his father, S. W. Stuart, as executor. This gill has been presented for probate, and a hearing upon the same is set for next week Saturday at the office of Judge Read.

Miss Jessie Ackerman, who has been around the world twice in the interests of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, spoke last Sunday evening to a union meeting of all the churches held in the Congregational church, the auditorium being

will be held at the same place March 3 in

George E. Cady, formerly proprietor of the ice cream restaurant of E. R. Ball, and who has for some years been employed by the Fitchburg railroad as baggage master at Hoosac Tunnel station, has recently been promoted to the position of station agent of same road at Townsend Harbor, Mass., a station on the Greenville branch of that

The annual supper and spron sale given Wednesday evening by the ladies of the Congregational church was one of the most largly attended and most successful in its history. The attendance from the other churches was noticeably large, and all departments of the sale were very satisfactory in their results. The net receipts amounted to about \$100.

The horse attached to the Rutland Tea company's delivery sleigh ran away from company's delivery sieign ran away from the Fitchburg railroad freight house last week Tuesday. It ran through the rail-road yard and dashed a third of the way into the old Fitchburg covered bridge over the falls, where it fell but did not go through. Cornelius Crowley and Willis Brown succeeded in getting it out of the bridge and with but little injury, to either bridge, and with but little injury to either the horse or the sleigh.

Fred H. Babbitt has decided not to go to White River Junction to assume personal direction of the depot restaurant until April 1, instead of March 1, as previously arranged. He has a good manager there as well as here, and the express company wish him to remain a month longer. His family will remain here until May 1, at which time Dr. Kirkland will move into their residence on Henry street, having long lease of it.

M. F. Burt, one of the best known farmers of Rockingham, is to sell his property at auction March 10. He will remove from town. He has lived on the same farm, near the centre of the town, for nearly 85 years, and has held many offices of public trust. He has been a justice of the peace for over 30 years. He will have the best wishes of many old friends and acquaintances in his new home, which is said to be with a daughter in the town of Wells, a short distance southwest of Rutland.

The High school students have this winter been interested in the facilities for phy sical improvement to a greater degree than at any time in the past and the atheletic association is making advancement that promises to put them in better trim for this year's contest than at any time in the past. A very creditable gymnasium has been fit-ted up in the basement of the High school building and considerable apparatus secur-This is being used to good advantage

and the interest is on the increase.

The grip, which has been so prevalent in Bellows Falls, as well as in all parts of the country, for the past few months, has almost entirely disappeared here. The physicians report that they have hardly any cases at this time, and that the results have been far less severe than during the epidemic of 1890. Practically no fatalities have occurred from it this season, and the unpleasant results are much less pronounc ed than then. At one time this winter there were probably between 250 and 300

Mysterious Disappearance of Owen evinced here in the prosperity of the school and in the generous donations to the insti tution which were received last week.
Gen. J. J. Estey and Mrs. L. K. Fuller of
Brattleboro each contributed \$10,000, and
W. Crane and D. G. Crane of Burlington each \$2500, to which there were added a number of smaller gifts, putting the finanfor a little time.

J. F. Moore and wife of Claremont were in town last week, and had some discussion looking toward the purchase of the milli-nery business of Mrs. J. H. Conway. Old friends of "Joe" would have been pleased to have had him make any arrangements he of Stillwell & Pelkey, who took poss it a few days ago, moving their stock from the Stillwell store on Rockingham street disappearance. Mr. Doyle came here from White River Junction about ten years ago and was an industrious, well thought of man. His family have the sympathy of winter.

The selectmen of the town received a petition two weeks ago asking them to change the grade of the street from George street to the top of the Old Terrace to as-sist the electric railroad in the grading of the town clerk's office Saturday forenoon, and it is probable a large number will want to be heard. There are some who will strenuously object to the proposed changes, and still others when the proposed changes, town in a few years would force many and still others when the proposed changes, town in a few years would force many have a sleighride to I. G. Marshall's on the of their franchise.

Hearings have been in progress since ed to wednesday at F. A. and A. I. Bolles's of-Wednesday at F. A. and A. I. Bolles's of-fice upon the more important bills against the insolvent estate of G. C. Sabin. They are before Commissioners A. E. Cudworth of South Londonderry, Mark Ward and A. W. J. Wilkins of Putney. The larger bills have been those of L. T. Lovell, 2d, about \$1100; L. M. Read, \$247; L. F. Prouty's es-tate about \$700; and a. Mr. Taylor of Camater will remain in New York city through large part of the spring.

Grand Master J. H. Blakeley was in Rutand Wednesday night to institute a new spring represents the last of the spring represents the spring representation represents the spring representation represents the spring representation represents the spring representation representati resent Mr. Lovell and H. D. Ryder is coun-sel for Mr. Reed. The hearings are taking considerable time, the details of each bill being carefully examined. The amount of dividend the estate will pay is entirely problematical at this time.

The business of the Vermont Farm Machine company has never been in a more prosperous condition than it is now. Or-ders are pressing from all directions, a larger force of employes is kept at work, sometimes on extra hours, and shipments are being made to nearly every part of the world. Wednesday a large order was received from South Africa for dairy implements of a large general variety. Cable ments of a large general variety. Cable orders are received frequently. The old effice man of a number of years ago, Her-bert W. Mitchell of Springfield, is again employed by the company, and comes down every morning and returns in the evening. This is made possible by the electric road between Charlestown and Springfield, and shows the advantages of

The Rutland railroad is not now issuing 1000-mile tickets, or any mileages at less than \$11.25 per 500 miles, these good to bearer. Since about Feb. 1, when agents have asked for new supplies of the joint ticket, or any other at two cents per mile, they have not been furnished, and the future policy of the read is not home. land, where the Fitchburg road has agents, their issue of the joint book is still sold, but crowded.

The young people's missionary society of the Baptist church, Farther Lights, will open their mite boxes for the year and enjoy a social hour at the parsonage next joy a social hour at the parsonage next Tuesday evening. The annual meeting of the church the Woman's Mission circle of the church follow the practice of all other roads and issue a two-cent ticket good to the bearer, which will greatly accommodate the travelling public

The Phoenix was in error last week in its account of the fire occurring Wednesday evening in the rooms of the Wheel club, in the statement that all hydrants in the square were frozen. Only one hydrant was opened that night, the one in front of Union block, and that stuck for a few moments only, just long enough for the fire to be put out with extinguishers, and with much less loss than would have been occasioned by water had the bydrant worked instantly. Friday morning every one of of the 67 hydrants in the village were tested and all but one worked perfectly. The one in front of Edward Arms's residence was found frozen, and that was the one to which the fire wardens had given the greatest care by covering and packing. record is excellent when compared with that of most of the cities of New England

during the long season of extreme cold. Owing to the recent burning of the opera house at North Adams the Jefferson Come-dy company have decided suddenly to come to Bellows Falls next Tuesday evening, the date they were to appear in North Adams, coming here from Rutland. The play is the celebrated Rip Van Winkle, and although Joseph Jefferson himself is not with the company four of his sons are, each of whom has a national reputation, and one of them takes the part of the vagabond Rip in a manner that the press state to be the nearest approach to equalling the father's rendering of it ever given. They come here under the management of J. E. Brosnahan and it would not have been possible to have secured them had not the fire occurred. It is an opportunity which our citizens should appreciate, making it possible to oftener get such companies here. Seats went on sale yesterday at Williams's store and sales so far indicate a good house.

### GRAFTON.

Miss Bertha Gallup has been visiting Miss Irene Stowell.

Miss Helen Hamilton returned to Dubin, N. H., on Tuesday.

Mrs. H. B. Carpenter has been spendng a few days at her home here. Mrs. Alexander Turner has returned from a visit in Lexington and Beston,

Miss Agnes Fairbank went to Walpole N. H., last Friday to visit her aunt, Miss Abbie Davis.

Fred W. Walker, a native of this place, was married Feb. 13th to Miss Elaine Robinson of Ayer, Mass.

The magazines and papers belonging to the club of 1808 will be sold at the post-of-fice at 7 o'clock Monday evening, Feb. 27. Mrs. V. A. Wilbur, who had been lame for several months, went to Boston last week to consult physicians there. Dr. Staples accompanied her.

## TOWNSHEND.

Town Clerk Fessenden, who went to oston last week to have a cataract rethere were probably between 250 and 300 cases in the village under the care of doctors.

A large number of our citizens have this week received cards to the senior reception at Vermont Academy, which occurs tomorrow evening. Much interest is

Shall the Town Issue Bonds to Pay Its Indebtedness!

One of the questions to come before the egal voters of the town of Westminster at the next town meeting is whether the town shall vote to issue bonds to pay and cancel its outstanding indebtedness. auditors find, upon examination of the books of the town officials, that the total outstanding debt of the town, at the end of this fiscal year, is \$20,000 in round num-

Waiving, for the present, all discussion which will arise as to why and how this debt was incurred, and whether or not town officials have always been careful enough in administering town affairs, the main question now, and the one question I propose to discuss is the important could to become a citizen of Bellows Falls again. The store was later sold to the firm debt, and that it has been legally contracted and must, and will, be paid in full. The only question at issue is how are the taxpayers of the town of Westminster going to decide by their votes which method to adopt that will eventually wipe out this debt against the town. Here we find men of different opinions, and of opposite views. There are some, I am told, who favor raising a heavy town tax for a few years, and in that way paying off and clearing up the debt; but my impression is that these men, while public spirited and willing to put their hands in their own their line at that point. The selectmen pockets and pay their share of the debt, have notified the property owners along that street that a public hearing will be given to any interested in the matter at majority of the taxpayers of this town are to be heard. There are some who will enough to pay the indebtedness of the strenuously object to the proposed changes, and still others who argue that if the change is to be made it belongs to the road pay their taxes. This would seem to be change is to be made it belongs to the road pay their taxes. This would seem to be to bear the expense, according to the terms poor policy, at least for the individual, and the taxpayer could hardly be expected to vote so directly against his own in

Others favor the policy which is at present pursued; that is, the town treasurer by and with the authority of the town, borrows what is necessary from time to time to float the debt, and for which money the town pays 5 per cent annual interest. Those who favor the present method claim that this money is largely borrowed from taxpayers in the town, who are thereby benefitted by finding a secure home market for their surplus money, and that, if all this money is taxed in the town, the town would derive a benefit in taxation, which would offset a lower rate of interest than 5 per cent, possibly making it less than 4

per cent actual cost to the town.

Theoretically this seems good, but the fortnight and no fact is that all of this money has never her term ended. yet been taxed in the town, and probably the net results have fallen far short of what its advocates claim for it, and would

continue to do so. Now, the statutes have provided for towns in our condition. Section 3111, Vermont statutes, reads as follows: "A town which has outstanding and unpaid orders, notes, bonds or coupons lawfully issued, may issue other negotiable notes or bonds to pay or retire the same," and sections 3112, 3113, 3114 and 3115 provide the methods to be pursued in doing so. Space forbids me here to give the sections mentioned, but, to be brief, it can be done by a vote of the town authorizing its se-lectmen and treasurer to issue the bonds; electric lines in increasing the working and there is no question in the minds of the best legal ability in the state, but what the bonds so issued would be legally they have not been furnished, and the future policy of the road is not known to the public. At Bellows Falls and at Rutland where the Eighl and at Rutthe issuing of bonds under the statutes, without an act of the legislature, would be

In the case of the town of Brattleboro there was a special act passed in 1896 giving the town authority to issue to the amount of \$55,000, but I am informed by the legal counsel for the town of Brattleboro, who looked after that matter, that the Boston parties who bought the bonds required a special act of the legislature before they would take the bonds, for the reason that there might be a question raised, sometime, as to the legality of a town putting money into an opera house, and part of this money was for that purpose, therefore the act of the

legislature legalized the loan. You will notice that section 3111 reads notes, bonds or coupons, etc., lawfully is-sued. An act of the legislature simply, in our case, would make our outstanding obligations lawfully issued; but, as there is no question about the legality of our town debt, such an act would not be necessary. Now comes the plan that I advocate

viz: Let the town vote authorizing its selectmen and town treasurer to issue or July I, 1809, according to law provided, \$20,000 town bonds. Let them be in denominations of \$100 each, and let them be registered; make them to draw 4 per cent annual interest, and make the first 10 bonds (or \$1000) expir July 1, 1900, and 10 more each succeeding year, until they are all cancelled. State in each bond the time when they come due. Then let the lown treasurer advertise, and offer them for sale to the highest bidders, and I believe that every bond will be taken in this town, and at par or above. My reasons for such belief are these: The money is here, the investment would be safe, and at home, and they would be exempt from taxation in the town, for under federal law a town cannot tax its own written obligations, and the supreme court of the United States has so decided. Therefore 4 per cent interest bearing bonds not subject to taxation, excepting for state and county taxes, would be considered a safe, conserv ative, and fairly profitable investment. fact, better than money in savings banks in this state, as far as interest is concerned, and also absolutely secure. Some banks now have reduced interest rates to 312 per cent, and many will follow. My object in issuing the bonds in small denominations is that people who have small sav-ings can invest in them if they wish.

This plan would reduce our interest account \$200 the first year, and increasingly continue to reduce both the interest and the debt, until both were wiped out. Also, so long as the debt is not paid, it stands as a warning to us, not to be extravagant, but to be very careful about our annual

expenditures. also believe that if we reduce this debt \$1000 per year, together with the interest, it will be as much as our taxpayers can consistently hope to accomplish, and pay in addition our annual running expenses, which are somewhat burdensome, and should be reduced if possible. Respectful-ly submitted to the voters of Westminster,

Westminster, Vt., Feb. 20, 1899.

The Misses Denel returned to New York Wednesday

Mrs. George Hayes of Westfield, Mass, is visiting at W. S. Fenn's.

A fair-sized audience attended C. W. Henry's play, "Around the World up to Date," last Saturday evening at the town hall. The george period. hall. The general verdict seems to be that there was very little depth to the play, but the many laughable situations proved con-stant mirth provokers.

#### WEST WINSTER.

An Excellent Entertainment. Monday evening proved full of enjoyment for all fortunate enough in being present at the excellent entertainment given at the town hall by the Kurn Hattin home boys. The following program was rendered in their usual pleasing manner:

Address of Welcome. lrest of Welcome, eting Song (Counter Sign. 1 John Mahew Edgar Wilkinson Edw J. Jones Storker Start Boy, site, "Suspenders and Boots," Harmonica Club Waldo Newman West for Stumblers, about the Counter Stumblers of Charlie Green Storkers.

cision of Judges.

The first prize of \$1 was awarded Irving Goodwin, second of 75 cents to John May-hew, third of 50 cents to Edward Jones. A friend presented each of the other contestants with a dainty box filled with con-fectionary. The judges were Rev. G. H. De Bevolse, Mrs. Pierce and G. H.

H. S. Bond has sold his '98 crop of to-

Mr. Rice of Grafton was the guest of J. H. Underwood and family Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Orr Wallace of Alstead,

N. H., spent Tuesday at G. H. Albee's. Walter H. Johnson and Henry Perry have been drawn as petit jurors to serve at the March term of court. News was received this week of the birth

of a son Feb. 15, to Mr. and Mrs. George S. Dascomb of San Antonio, Texas. Rhubarb was enjoyed by D. A. Hills and family on Washington's birthday, it being grown in Mr. Hill's cellar by Eli Geer. Who can beat this?

It would be well to emulate our neighto organize a society for the prevention of cruelty to dumb animals. Too little atten-tion is paid to this matter in the small vil-Nothing should appeal quicker to every right-minded citizen than the cause of those unable to plead for themselves. We hope all read the article in the Townshend column last week.

#### WESTMINSTER WEST.

Mr. Mc Cienning expects soon to remove lsewhere. He has occupied Frank Harlow's house for about a year.

Miss Frances Goodell is at home from her school in Windham. She was ill for a fortnight and not able to return as soon as

The ladies' aid society met Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Harlan Goodhue. The society is preparing to furnish a dinner at the coming town meeting. Among those who spent Sunday here were: A. F. Schwenk of Brattleboro, Ro-

land Chapman of Windham, Miss Mabel Goodhue from Bellows Falls and Miss Florence Goodhue from Malden. Our three schools, taught by Misses Cutting, Goodell and Ranney, closed the

winter term last week. They all went along harmoniously and much to the ap-proval of the people who are interested in them. Miss Cutting has been ill since her school closed. She is a hard worker and was somewhat overdone at the end of the term. Miss Ranney has been spending some days with friends in Westminster, and Miss Goodell designs to go to Maiden soon for her vacation.

Harlan P. Dinsmore is the latest sufferer reported from the grip. He was obliged to summon a doctor early in the week and as his general health is not good the attack may prove to be a serious one. Mrs. H. E. Wellman begins to improve more rapidly, but Miss Carrie, upon whom much care of her mother and the household has devolved, has become worn out and is obliged to keep her room. Mrs. Della eriously ill for several weeks. not having been out since the first of January, but she is now much better.

R. B. Goodhue was one of those who had a tough experience in the recent storm in Boston. He is employed in the Everett Piano works in the south end of the city and lives in Malden. He succeeded in reaching Sullivan square, Charlestown, by electric car about 6:30 to find that nothing ran beyond. He was obliged to walk from there to Malden, a distance of at least three miles, right in the teeth of the gale, with two or three other young men. About 8 o'clock he reached home plastered with snow, both ears frozen, and pretty generally used up.

# SAXTONS RIVER.

Mrs. I. B. Warner is at Hartford, Conn. with her sister. Miss Lizzie Glynn is visiting her brother, Walter Glynn.

Miss Pratt of Rockingham is visiting her aunt and cousins. The new Warner barn will come rapid ly into shape this week.

Tuesday was the third anniversary of Mrs. S. J. Warner's death. Wednesday afternoon the lady teacher of Vermont Academy were "at home" to

the school.

Mr. and Mrs. Glynn of Minneapolis Minn., have been visiting his relatives Our public schools took a brief recess

this week, resuming their regular session on Thursday. The young people of the Congregational church held on Wednesday evening a pres-

idential social. The dime social at the Baptist vestry on Friday evening proved a very enjoyable oc-

casion to the 40 persons in attendance. Miss Rankin, who has been assisting the matron at the Warner Home for a few weeks, returned to Boston Wednesday.

Mrs. John Dinsmore and Mr. and Mrs. William Dinsmore of Alstead, N. H., took linner on Thursday at the Congregational

U. gave an entertaining address at the Bap-tist church Sunday morning. Her topic was "The Women of Asia." Among the number of convalescent peo-ple of the village mention may be made of Mrs. Forgett, Mrs. Hammond, Mr. Denio and of Mr. and Mrs. Tenney.

Fay S. Fuller is at the Campbells in Westminster West this week reconstructing the plumbing. Mrs. Fuller is spend-ing a portion of the week with her sister,

Mrs. Wright. Saturday evening at Fuller hall occurs the social event of the winter, the senior reception. A large number of invitations have been sent out by the class. The oceasion promises to be one of rare interest.

### CAMBRIDGEPORT.

F. A. Smith has recently bought a pair of large black horses. Mr. Waldron of Chester was called here on Wednesday in the interest of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Ani-

A party of about 20 of the friends of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Allbee gave them a surprise on Tuesday evening at the home of J. H. Allbee. Refreshments were served and the evening was spent socially

#### LIFE IN MATANZAS.

As Seen by a Brattleboro Boy.

Corporal Tucker Tells of the Cuban Soldiers, the Reconcentrados and Other Interesting Things-s-a Memento from

An interesting letter was received by Col. G. H. Bond Monday morning from Corporal Allie J. Tucker, a Brattleboro boy who is now with the American army in Matanzas, Cuba. Enclosed with th letter was a captain's star, worn on the sleeve by a Spanish captain, and a brass representation of a bugle with a figure "S" denoting the captain's rank. The letter. which was dated at Matanzas, Feb. 14 was 20 pages long. The most interesting portion of it is as follows:

"I was mustered out of the 8th New York volunteers and was intending to return to Brattleboro, but learning that the 12th was booked for foreign service I thought I would have a "try" at it, for I didn't feel satisfied until I had seen it out, so I joined the 12th at Americus, Ga. We had a very nice camp there on a level field of a sandy loam which was covered at the time of our arrival with sweet potatoes and cotton. We made good use of the former and the latter we pulled up and burned.

"Our brigadier general was and is Gen. Sanger of the regulars. He was colonel and inspector general, and I tell you he knows his little book too. He was ordered to Cuba and was told to take his choice from the First from the First Army corps as a body guard and he took the 12th, which we consider-

ed quite a compliment.

"On Jan. 1, at 3 p. m., we 'unfolded'
our anchor in Matsazas harbor, directly
opposite San Solverino castle, the fort
where so many Cuban prisoners were executed and also where two American correspondents were imprisoned for some time. When we got ashore I tell you it made us sick to look at the camp ground, which was nothing more or less than a coral reef and terribly uneven. You might as well try to drive a tent peg into solid rock as into

"We were soon surrounded by Cubans, Spanish soldiers and half-naked kids, partout of curiosity and partly for trade, for they had Spanish swords, Cuban machetes, bananas, oranges, cigars, cigarettes and all kinds of cakes to soak the 'Americanos' at three or four times their value. The next day my company was detailed as 'Pro-vost Guard' in the city, and here we have been ever since and probably will stay as long as we are in Cuba, staying in the 'Governor's Palace' as they call the city hall here. We have a whole house right in the best part of the city and just off the 'Plaza de Armas,' and our captain, who talks quite a little Spanish, is giving great

satisfaction. "I never had a very high estimate of the Cuban soldiers as fighting machines, and when I saw them in person their stock dropped still lower in my mind. They could not have whipped Spain in a thousand years. But what took the cake was their marching. It was a short, quick step of about six or eight inches, I should indea striking a short of the should should be should be a short of the should be should b judge, striking on the ball of the foot with a sort of a shuffle as if they were catching the time for a sand jig. Then their costume looked more as if they were going to a masquerade than anything else. Big broad-brimmed straw hats, turned up in front and down in back, with a raw edge front and down in back, with a raw edge of about two inches, linen suits, canvas shoes, rusty guns of the Remington pat-tern, gunny bags for blankets and any old thing for a haversack completed their out-

"One sees much here to attract one's at-tention. The costumes and habits of the people and even the buildings interest the American soldiers and tend to make time pass pleasantly. We see every day the resuit of the terrible reconcentrado system; poor wretches on the streets, simply walking skeletons, and it is nothing short of a cle what holds body and s oys with legs on them the size of my wrist, with eyes sunken and without a spark of vitality. They are fed by the United States government and draw their rations every ten days, the same as we do. The most of them have gone back into the country, having been supplied with cows, farming tools and seed by the government. One Cuban who could talk good English told me the other day that it was like God coming down from heaven to have the Americans come here. About 40,000 of these unfortunate people died in this prov-

'The poor Cubans are being employed improving the streets, for which they are paid \$1 a day by the government. houses are not prepossessing, being built of stone, one story high and painted a blue or yellow to protect the eyes from the glare of the sun. They thus present a same-ness and a barn-like appearance. But the inside is different. Every house has a inside is different. Every nouse has a court where they grow magnificent palms, bananas, roses and every tropical plant. The rooms all open on to this court, making them cool and comfortable. The houses are all tiled inside in different decions and look vary neat and trim.

signs, and look very neat and trim.
"We live very comfortably here in our quarters, each squad having a room to it-self and sleeping on well-made bunks. The only thing that bothers us is the discipline, which is extremely strict, and the short rations. We never have enough to eat. We drew 10 days' rations day before yesterday, and we could easily eat them in

five days.
"Before I close I must tell you a com-pliment that was paid us by Gen. Breckenridge, who reviewed all the troops here. (By the way they are the 8th Massachusetts, 3d Kentucky, 160th Indians, 12th New York, one battalion of 3d E. C., and the 2d cavalry). When our company passed in review Gen. Breckenridge asked what company that was. Gen. Sanger re-plied "Provost Guard," to which Gen. Breckenridge replied, "Noble column, general." That I heard myself.

general." That I heard myself.
"We are going to lose our general, for
he is ordered to the Philippines. It is reported that he wants to take us with him.
Well, colonel, I think I have done pretty
well for an amateur. I hope to see you
soon for I don't think our time is for long here, and by April we will be sailing for 'Home, Sweet Home.'

"I see that a New Jersey man who sold his wife for \$5 has been arrested." "For obtaining money under false pretences,

Where there is one woman who trims her own bonnet there are scores who pick other women's bonnets to pieces. - [Boston

#### Can Cubans Govern Themselves! One of the best known diplomatists recently declared that the Cubans are utterly incapable

of governing themselves, and that the United States must maintain its present control indefi-nitely, or else annex the island. There will be those who will dispute this opinion, but there are none who dispute the well established fact that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is capable of govern ing and controlling common diseases of stomach, liver, kidneys, and blood. Il is a remedy that is backed by 50 years of success. It is an ideal medicine for constipation; the most effective purifier for the blood; a tissue and strength builder for those who are predisposed to fur g troubles, and for nervoumess it is of wonderful benefit. It stirs up a lazy liver, stimulates inactive kidneys, and as an appetizer is incompar able. Those whose stomachs are out of orde should not fail to try a bottle.

# GOING.

That is our bargains spoken of last week are going. But we still have many good ones

Some extra good bargains in SILVER PLATED ware and clocks.

Remember the sale lasts until March 18.

## H. H. THOMPSON.

Our silverware contains no auction stuff, but first-class, up-to-date goods.

Our line of ladies' spring jackets is now ready for your inspection. Some things you can find with us cannot be gotten elsewhere.

New things in skirts \$1.50 to \$7.50.

New suits for ladies, \$4 to \$10. Also, the best line of ladies' waists in silk, satin, French flannels and velvet ever shown in town.

STARKEY & CO.

# SPECIAL **PRICES** TO CLOSE

Overcoats, Reefers

Goods at Cost and Less.

PRATT, WRIGHT & CO.

MANILA IN FLAMES.

Hundreds of Buildings Destroyed by Incendiaries.

Fire Started at Seven Different Places-Fighting in the Streets--- An Engage. ment Outside the City Yesterday.

There was an outbreak of incendiarism, accompanied by fighting in Manila Tues-day evening. The casualties were few but the property loss is enormous. The fire department experienced great difficulty in department experienced great difficulty in fighting the flames owing to defective apparatus. It is reported that the natives have damaged the apparatus. There was some fighting in the streets during the night but the Americans quickly quelled the uprising. A number of the insurgents were killed and several American soldiers wounded. A large market place was A large market place was among the first to burn, between 600 and 700 residences and business houses have been destroyed. Fires were started at several points simultaneously and spreading with great rapidity resisted all efforts to control them. It is said that houses set on fire were marked with a red cross. Hun-

Caloocan, but it was promptly checked by hot and effective musketry and artillery fire. In the meantime small bodies of rebels spread out between the city and out posts. Every available man was sent to drive them away, with the result of desul-tory firing all the morning. The monitor Monadnock joined in the engagement, hurling 10-inch shells over the American lines into the bodies of the enemy indicated by the signal corps. So far our casualty by the signal corps. So far our casualties are one man killed and 10 wounded. At If there were sharp engagements at the Chinese cemetery and Sans Pedro Macati almost simultaneously but artillery fire from both positions drove the enemy back. From the high towers of the city fires can be seen burning at a dozen different points. be seen burning at a dozen different points outside. Some of these are probably due to the Monadnock's shells. It is currently reported that the natives have threatened

district. One band of 60 rebels, having two carloads of arms and accoutrements, was captured in a house. Business is

practically suspended. Aguinaldo has issued a manifesto accepting the situation caused by the unex-pected "provocation of the Americans while lamenting hostilities," which he says, he "tried to avoid by every means in his power, making humiliating concessions and tolerating insults and outrages of the army of occupation against people of Ma-nilla." He adds he is prepared to sacri-fice everything "to maintain the integrity of the national honor." He calls upon all o witness the "good faith and honesty" of his intentions and complains he has been treated as a rebel "because I defended the national interests instead of becoming a tool of the American preposterous pretensions." The rebel leader further alleges that the country is unanimous in his support and the people "will perish rather than accept the odious American domin-ion," and alleging "even the corrupt Spanish dominion preferable."

Passage of the Sundry Civil Bill.

The House passed the sundry civil ap-propriation bill Friday, after considering it on fire were marked with a red cross. Hundreds of homeless natives are huddled in the streets, making the patrol duty of the Americans very difficult. Americans very difficult.

With daylight yesterday morning the enemy began worrying tactics at various parts of the American line, apparently for the purpose of withdrawing attention from affairs inside the city. An attempt was made to rush through our extreme left near Caloocan, but it was promptly checked by There was no general opposition to the measure although it carries \$44,000,000, being \$8,000,000 more than the largest naval appropriation bill ever passed by Congress.

While the naval appropriation bill was being read Mr. Dockery, Dem., of Missouri raised a point of order against the provision in the bill whereby the Fitchburg Railroad company was granted the privilege of constructing a dock partly upon government ground at the Boston navy yard. Mr. Boutelle contended that the proposition would be very advantageous to the government, giving to it free of expense the benefit of \$300,000 in improvements by the railroad. Mr. Dockery said the proposition did not commend itself to him, but he did not feel that he should insist upon his point of order. Thereupon Mr. Cum-mings, Dem., of New York, renewed the point of order, but he afterwards with-drew it and moved to strike out the proto burn Escolata and the walled city. Scores of rebels have been arrested in the Tondo feated—27 to 66.